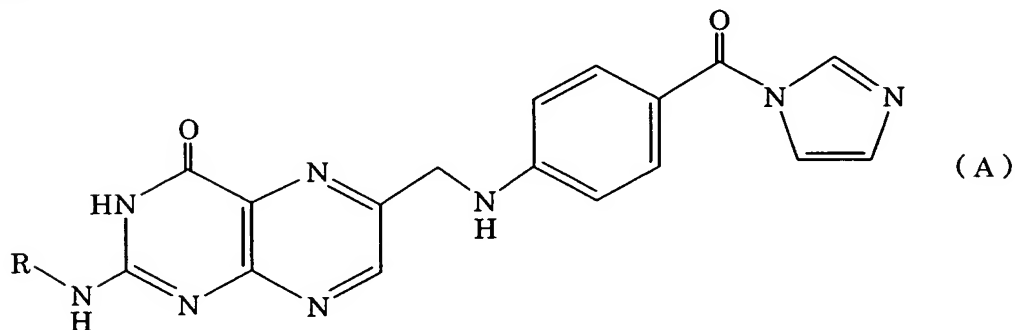
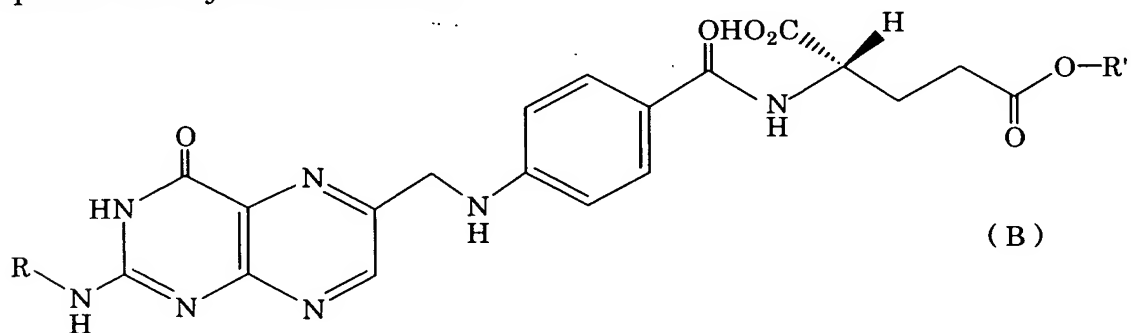


CLAIMS

1. A process for producing folic acid derivatives which comprises:
 a) a step of reacting an imidazolidine represented by a formula (A):



(in the formula, R stands for a protective group of amino group) with γ -lower alkyl L-glutamate in an organic solvent in the presence of a base to form a γ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate which is represented by a formula (B):



(in the formula, R has the same signification to its definition given as to the formula (A), and R' stands for a lower alkyl);
 and

- b) a step of reacting a γ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the formula (B) with an amine compound of a formula (C):



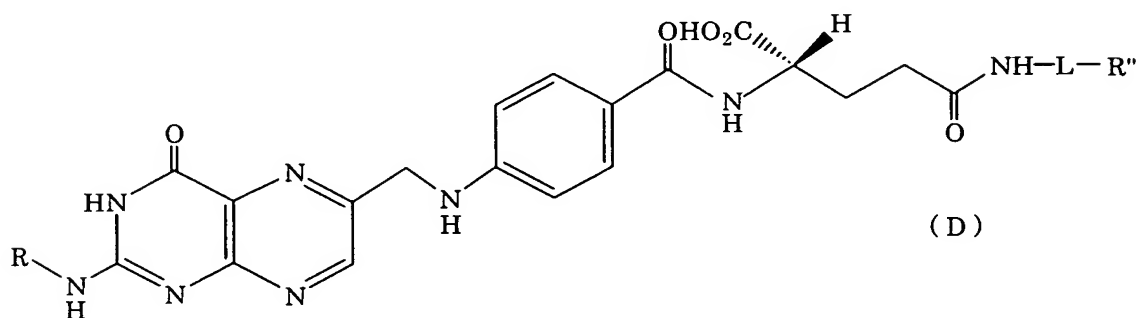
{in the formula, R'' stands for a reactive group readily reactable with a functional group of an organic compound, and

L stands for a linkage, C₁ – C₅ alkylene or an oligo- or poly-(oxyalkylene) of a formula,



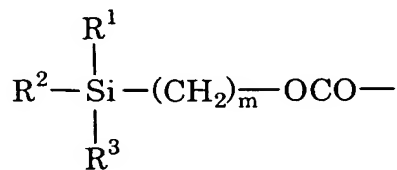
(in which R^C stands for hydrogen or methyl, and n is an integer of 1 – 10,000)}

to produce a folic acid derivative of a formula (D):



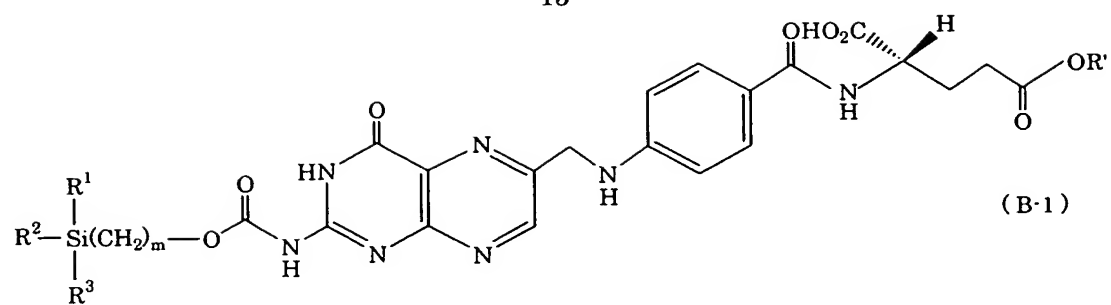
(in the formula, R has the same signification to its definition given as to the formula (A), and L and R' have the same significations to those as defined as to the formula (C)).

2. A process according to Claim 1, in which R in the formula (A) is a group represented by the following formula,



(in the formula, R¹, R² and R³ each independently stands for lower alkyl, and m stands for an integer of 1 – 4).

3. Gamma-lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the following formula (B-1):



(in the formula, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently stands for lower alkyl; m stands for an integer of 1 – 4; and R' stands for lower alkyl).